

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Site of Ogle Town

AND/OR COMMON

Lands End Farm

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Wilmer Point

CITY, TOWN

Church Hill

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1st

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Queen Anne's

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☒ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☐ EDUCATIONAL☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ MILITARY☐ OTHER:**OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Adrian P. Reed

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Lands End Farm

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21617

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Queen Anne's County Courthouse

Liber #: CWC 19

Folio #: 405

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Courthouse Square

CITY, TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

QA-306

| CONDITION                          |   | CHECK ONE                                   | CHECK ONE   |
|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED         | <input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED          | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> GOOD      | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS                | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED |   |   |

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site of Ogle Town is believed to be on the south side of Chester River at the mouth of South East Branch. A plat prepared in 1732 clearly identifies both the river and South East Branch, and the town is noted on several 18th century maps, in particular on the Fry-Jefferson map of 1751. This point of land, now known as Wilmer Point, was identified in 1732 as "Hawkin's Prize House Point".

The town plat prepared in 1732 is composed of a grid plan, with three principal streets running parallel to Chester River and five more streets of varying widths running back perpendicular to the river. A copy of this plat is included with this form.

An examination of the shoreline and the plowed fields at Lands End Farm revealed no archeological evidence of an early 18th century site. This examination was superficial in scope, however, and should not discourage more rigorous testing by a professional field crew. For a discussion of historical and documentary evidence, refer to section 8 of this form.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

| PERIOD  | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW        |  |   |  |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC          | <input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC         | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING                | <input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION            |
| 400-1499                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC | <input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION                      | <input type="checkbox"/> LAW                    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599            | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE                    | <input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS                         | <input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE             | <input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE        | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION                         | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY               | <input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799 | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                            | <input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING                       | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC                  | <input type="checkbox"/> THEATER             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY             | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1900-                | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS                 | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY                          | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION                         |   |  |

SPECIFIC DATES 1732

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Ogle Town was one of three towns established by the Maryland General Assembly in 1732. Bridge Town, on the Choptank River, survived to become the present-day town of Greensboro, in what is now Caroline County. Kings Town, on the Chester River opposite Chestertown, served as a small trading and business center for much of the 18th century, only to fade away and then disappear under the modern community of the same name. Ogle Town, named for proprietary governor Samuel Ogle, was located on the Chester River at the mouth of South East Branch. While this town seems to have enjoyed a period of prosperity, by the mid-18th century it was in decline, and by the end of the century had probably disappeared completely.

The act establishing Ogle Town was passed July 11, 1732. It appointed commissioners and empowered them to purchase land and to survey and lay out lots. In order to retain title to lots,

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

QA-306

Bordley, James, Jr. The Hollyday Family. Baltimore:

Maryland Historical Society, 1962.

Emory, Frederick. Queen Anne's County, Maryland. Baltimore:

Maryland Historical Society, 1950.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

### VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

### LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Orlando Ridout V, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Queen Anne's County Historical Society

DATE

4/13/81

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Centreville

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

# Ogletown: one of our first

(Editor's note: Queen Anne's County is full of hamlets with rich-sounding, thought-provoking names. Interesting places. Nice places to live. And visit. In this series, the color, history and charm of such places will be revealed).

By DOROTHY LINDSTROM  
Staff Writer

One of the most beautiful sections of Queen Anne's County may be witnessed by driving along a winding country road beginning at Spaniards Neck and ending at the mouth of Southeast Creek, on Wilmer Neck.

The trail is named Lands End Road, and is lined with some of the oldest and loveliest estates in the county, not to mention acres of pine forests, fields harboring Canadian geese, and glimpses of the majestic Chester River.

Most of the land is prohibited to hunters, rendering the quiet countryside a gift of stillness and tranquility perhaps unsurpassed in the county.

## Town is planned

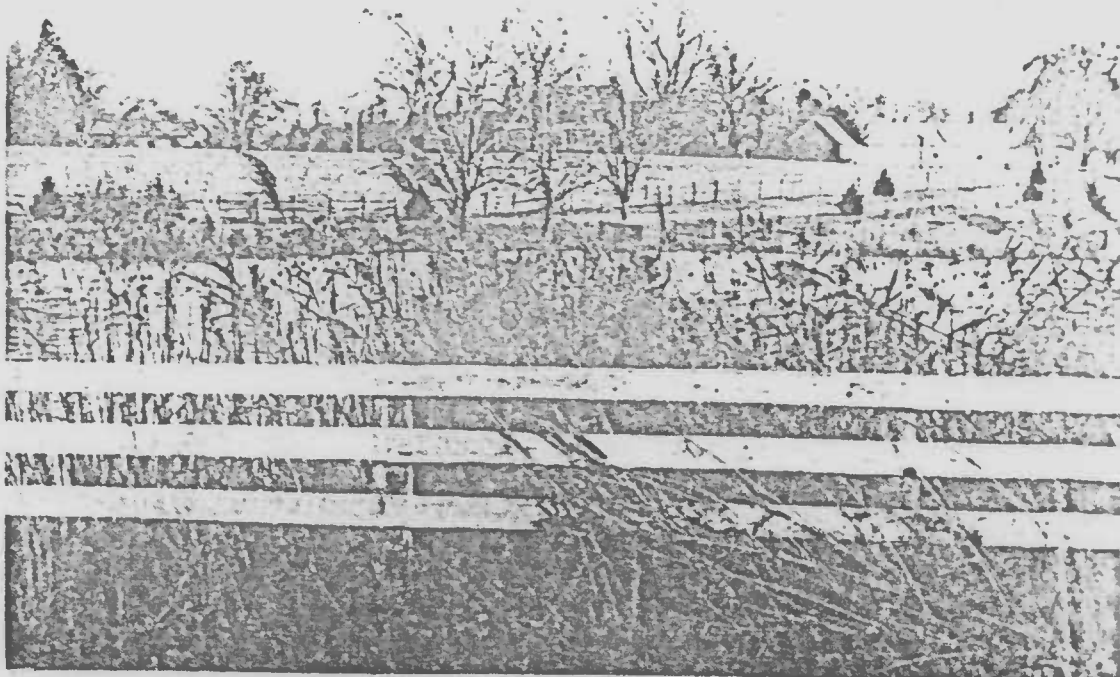
Because of its beauty, it is no wonder why the General Assembly on August 8, 1732 passed an act to build a town there, on the south side of the Chester River at the mouth of what was then called South-East Branch. Frederick Emory records that the town was to be laid out in lots on 60 acres of land. The point of land, now believed to be Wilmer Point, was known at that time as "Hawkin's Prize-House Point."

The town was called "Ogletown-upon-Chester," apparently in honor of Samuel Ogle, proprietary governor of Maryland at that time. "Prize-House Point," in the vicinity of what is now Lands End Farm, received its name by virtue of the fact that tobacco was pressed into hogshead in a building called the "prize house," or "press house." No traces of any such building can be found in the area, but it would appear possible that such a tobacco-pressing building was once located there. Tobacco is still grown at various farms in the county, including "Readbourne," which is located along the Chester River on Wilmer Neck.

## Ogle and tobacco

Governor Ogle had some trouble with the tobacco industry in colonial Maryland, according to research done by Matthew Page Andrews in his book *History of Maryland, Province and State*, published in 1929.

During his first term as proprietary governor,



**LANDS END FARM**—Located where Southeast Creek runs into the Chester River, this stretch of land on Wilmer Neck was an ideal location for the "ghost town" of Ogletown, planned for an area of Queen Anne's County once called "Hawkins Prize House Point." The farm is presently owned by Mr. and Mrs. Adrian P. Reed.

ran from 1731 to 1742, Ogle had to deal with "agitation in connection with the 'low condition' of the tobacco trade." Considered the staple crop of Maryland, tobacco was vital to the welfare of the province.

Ogle cited the exporting of what he called "trashy" tobacco, from the province. According to Andrews, the tobacco market was "overstocked," with demands and prices hitting rock-bottom.

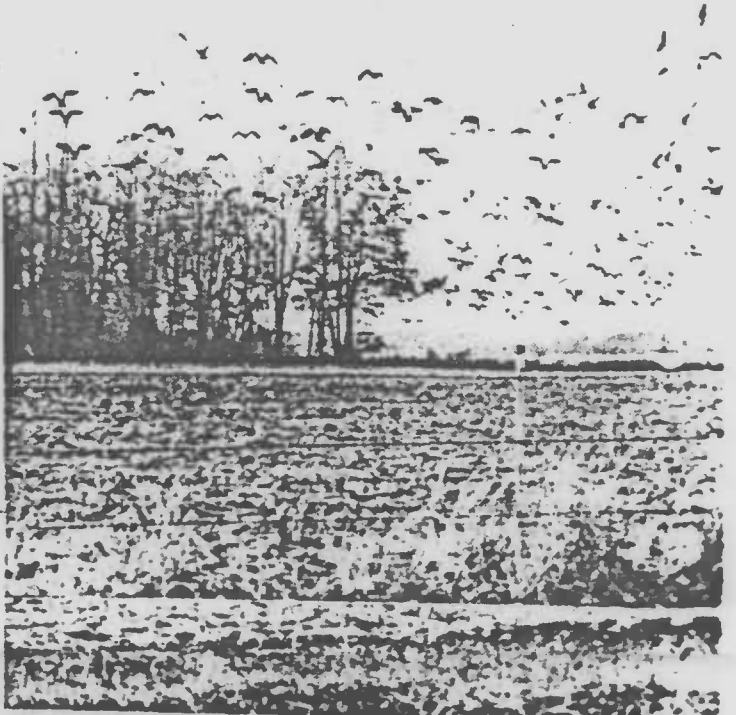
## Blamed tobacco cutters

To relieve the situation, Ogle first called for a reduction of tobacco acreage. And, in his 1731 inaugural address, he announced that he was "heartily concerned for the calamitous condition the Country is in, occasioned by the Decay of its

Trade, and the Lowness of its Staple." Andrews further records that Ogle put the blame on the questionable proceed-

ings of "Certain Cutters-up of Tobacco Plants."

Though Ogle's governorship was briefly interrupted in 1733



**TRANQUILITY**—Geese begin flight above a field on Wilmer Neck, along the Chester River. In 1732, the General Assembly passed an act to build a town on 60 acres of land in the vicinity of this peaceful setting.

# County 'keepsake series'

## First 'planned communities'

by an "interim of personal control by fifth Lord Baltimore," he nevertheless was reinstated as governor in 1747, and served until 1752. Ogle was not a resident of Queen Anne's County, having established an estate, "Belair" in Prince George's County.

In 1739, England declared war against Spain, an act which apparently diverted Governor Samuel Ogle from his woes over the tobacco industry. The war with Spain may also have put an economic halt to the Ogle town project, as the place is presently untraceable. Emory mentions Ogle town in reference to a land deed he discovered, stating that in 1734, two years after the General Assembly planned the 60-acre town, James Hollyday purchased "Macklinborough," "lying on the main road leading from Ogle town."

### Dead End Road

It is reasonable to assume that the "main road" this land deed refers to is Lands End Road. And what more appropriate name for a road that runs

into a dead end at Southeast Creek?

Ogle town also must have run into a dead end somewhere in the minds of provincial Maryland planners, because there is no earthly sign anywhere of a town on Wilmer Neck. Probably one of Maryland's original "planned communities" Ogle town may someday be joined by Wye Island and Pioneer Point, two other proposed "planned communities" being considered for Queen Anne's County.

But if you live out that way, or even drive down Lands End Road sometime, you may notice that the quiet, almost ghostlike atmosphere of the area is a perfect backdrop for the ghost town named after Samuel Ogle. Whatever happened to the plans for Ogle town, it would seem that neither the ducks or the geese of the people at Wilmer Neck appear disturbed that the whole idea reached a dead end.

What could have evolved into a thriving Chester River port is no more than the kind of land much of Queen Anne's County still has to offer—peaceful, quiet, and preserved.



**LEAVE ME ALONE**—This lone sow, eating corn in an empty field along the northern section of Lands End Road, may be standing on the spot designated by the General Assembly as the site of "Ogle-town-upon-Chester."



